NICK SMITH CURRICULUM VITAE

PORTFOLIO: portfolio.njs91.com

PERSONAL DETAILS

Mobile: 07538584956
Email: nick.smith.9191@gmail.com
Date of Birth: 22nd April 1991

Nationality: British
Driving: Full UK Driving License & Car Owner
Address: Flat 2, 30 Ludlow Rd, Guildford, GU2 7NW

EDUCATION & SKILLS

SELF-BUILT SAAS APPS:
TopUpTest: www.topuptest.com **-** an A/B testing platform.
Popup Hawk: www.popuphawk.com - a website popup building platform.

SKILLS:
Front-End Development: React (Hooks, Context, MobX), TypeScript, JavaScript, HTML, CSS (LESS, SASS & modular. Author of CSS book - see portfolio), NextJS, GraphQL (URQL & Apollo client), Bootstrap, Cross-Browser Compatibility
Back-End Development: Node, RESTful APIs (Django REST Framework, Express), GraphQL (Apollo server), Webhooks (Stripe), Redis caching, AWS SES, Python (basic, with Django), Java (basic, with Spring)
Databases: SQL (Postgres), Relational Database Design, some NoSQL (MongoDB & DynamoDB)
Testing & Quality Assurance: Jest Unit Testing, Mock Service Worker, Cypress E2E Testing
DevOps & Infrastructure: Deployment (Nginx, SSL certificates, VMs on DigitalOcean and Raspberry Pis), Linux CLI, Git, Azure DevOps, DNS, DDNS, Port Forwarding, Firewalls, UFW, JWT Authentication, IP Rate Throttling, CI/CD Pipelines

EDUCATION:
Udemy: 14 Courses Completed from 2017 to 2021 - see portfolio for details.
Headless Raspberry Pi: SSH, Deployment with Nginx & SSL (Let's Encrypt), Networking (e.g. port forwarding, DDNS via cronjob shell script using CloudFlare API)
Books: The Road to React
Other: WordPress, Adobe Creative Suite (Photoshop, Premiere Pro, After Effects, InDesign), SEO, paid ad campaigns, PageSpeed Insights.

QUALIFICATIONS:
Innovate: *(2017)* - IAO Level 3 Certificate in Web Design and Development (RQF - A level equivalent).
Google: *(2017)* - Google Analytics Certified.
Degree: *(2010 - 2013)* - Bachelor of Business Administration (University of Kent).
A-levels: *(2007 - 2009)* - Maths (A), Economics (B), Geography (D).
GCSEs: *(2006 - 2007)* - Maths (A), English (A), Digital Photography (A), French (A), English Literature (B), Information Technology (B), Graphics (C), Geography (C), Religious Education (D), Science (D).

SAAS Apps

Built both Popup Hawk and TopUpTest from scratch by myself. I wanted to build full-stack apps to learn about full-stack development and thought building real applications would be the best, pragmatic way to do so. In a nutshell, the popup app allows website owners to create their own popups and the A/B testing app allows uses to create their own A/B tests on a PAYG basis, where the tracking scripts track specific metrics and submit the data to the servers.

I chose the PERNTG tech stack (Postgres, Express, React, Node, TypeScript & GraphQL) and the work included the following to create minimum viable products:
- Three Back-end Node Apps: a primary Apollo GraphQL server governing user activity; a RESTFUL tracking server for processing tracking events; and a RESTFUL Stripe webhook server processing Stripe events

- A Front-end React App: information fetched from the database via an URQL GraphQL client and presented to users, using hooks and context for state management and a GraphQL type generator
- Deploying on VMs: a test server on my raspberry pi and staging and production servers on Digital Ocean droplets. Nginx configuration involving SSL certificate creation, DNS, PM2, port forwarding, etc
- Relational Database Design: creating the Postgres database by listing the requirements, entities and attributes and coming up with an appropriate schema
- Database Interactions: creating CRUD resolvers and methods used by the front-end, tracking and Stripe webhook servers using SQL. Also included affiliate crons and stored procedures
- Caching with Redis
- Tracking Script: a client-based tracking script sending the data to a RESTFUL API safely via a beacon when the user leaves the page
- Security: IP-based rate-limit throttling, JWT-based authentication, firewall on the server using UFW, changing the port, fail2ban, etc
- Testing: using mock service worker for Jest unit tests and Cypress for E2E tests
- Investigations: a lot of of investigatory work to figure out how to go about everything, such as using AWS SES for sending emails, lots of Linux and headless CLI packages, etc
- Browser safety: created features like race conditions etc to safeguard against the script taking too long to fetch
- Marketing: it's also involved other work, such as creating marketing funnels, paid ads, branding, videoing, selling, etc

---

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

SUMMARY:

Vodafone - **Lead Software Engineer** *(August 2022 - present)*

Work as a front-end lead software engineer as part of the basket and checkout team. My role has evolved to include greater responsibilities, such as planning and breaking down features, reviewing pull requests, supporting colleagues with technical implementation and deployment, leading pair programming sessions, and helping onboard new team members. I also write documentation for best practices, collaborate with functional teams and back-end developers on front-end requirements with a focus on performance, UX, and accessibility, and regularly raise edge cases, challenge implementation details, identify blockers, refine acceptance criteria, and contribute to interviews. Work has primarily involved front-end feature implementation, along with creating AWS lambdas (JWT auth-based), PaCE testing, CMS integrations, bug fixing, and so on. Tech stack has involved React with MobX, TypeScript, Jest unit testing, Cypress E2E testing, Node, CI/CD pipelines, CSS-in-JS, Azure DevOps, and more. Was initially a software engineer and then made lead.

Compare & Recycle - **Software Engineer** *(19 months, remote, October 2020 - May 2022)*

Worked as a software engineer for a small SAAS company working on their core product and micro-services. Tasks involved creating new user-facing pages and fetching and editing data from one micro-service to display on another. The tech primarily involved React (functional), TypeScript and Apollo/URQL GraphQL API queries and mutations which required writing performant code with minimal server-strain using the likes of asynchronous javascript, lazy-loading, debouncing, conditional rendering, CSS modules, NextJS components, caching, etc. Also involved some back-end work in Django, RESTFUL APIs (DRF) and a small amount of SQL. Made redundant due to a lack of work.

VerseOne Technologies - **Front-end Developer** *(18 months, in Woking, April 2019 - October 2020)*

Worked as a front-end developer and on support for a leading provider of websites, portals and intranets. Primarily involved advanced CSS and some vanilla javascript. Left due to lack of back-end progression options (didn't want to learn CFML - their back-end tech-stack).

UKRD - **Front-end Developer** *(16 months, in Exeter, November 2017 - April 2019)*

Worked as a front-end developer on various projects and helped with support queries throughout the radio group of subsidiaries. Primarily used HTML, CSS, JavaScript and jQuery. Left to relocate back to Surrey.

Technical Support Associates *(2009 - 2010, Summer of 2012, 2013 - 2017, 2019 website redesign)*

Worked for my father's engineering firm part-time and then full-time. Projects varied between engineering and FED. Best FED project is the redesign of www.tsaservices.co.uk with best designs and slideshow built from scratch.

Self-employment *(2008 - 2017)*

Ran an eCommerce business since April 2008, including during school. Included selling on eBay, Amazon and an eCommerce store, creating brands, importing FCL and LCL shipments from Shanghai, manufacturing OEM products with my own trademarks, building brands, YouTube following with videos having hundreds of thousands of views, etc.

AREAS OF WORK

DEVELOPMENT:

<u>Vodafone:</u>
- Lead the front-end
- Regularly approached for technical guidance on the feasibility and way of approaching new features, helping colleagues complete their tasks, reviewing pull requests, and triaging and prioritising tasks
- Implemented various new design and functionality changes across Vodafone's product pages and journeys for watches, tablets, laptops, dongles and checkout
- Integrated Contentful CMS in the checkout repository with fallback content so that non-technical users could make changes to page content without having to bother developers. Presented these changes to my team and created documentation so that they were all onboarded
- Created JWT-based authentication lambdas as part of the EECC new customer switch infrastructure used by other micro services and lambdas to create new authenticated user sessions
- Frequently run CI/CD pipelines in ADO including deployments and cherry picking onto release branches

<u>Compare & Recycle:</u>
- Implemented new features on the primary and support sites, such as fetching new data from various API endpoints to display to users, sending new data when prospects place orders, and various other tasks
- Created the account area so that customers can log in to view, change and manage their orders
- Learned a large variety of different languages, including React, TypeScript, GraphQL, Asynchronous JavaScript, NextJS and some Python with Django with RESTFUL APIs (DRF)

<u>VerseOne Technologies:</u>
- Design of numerous, varied, client-friendly, easy to use, robust, cross-browser friendly websites typically using javascript plugins and slideshows (bxSlider & jcarousel). Work done in sprints - examples on portfolio.
- JavaScript: CMS limitations meant custom JavaScript-injection was common (mostly written in vanillaJS). Contemporary front-end tech stack used flexboxes, grids and the LESS CSS preprocessor.
- Version Control: typically had to SSH/RDP onto server clusters daily, branch off, commit work from test servers to repositories, merge branches, push commits to remotes and pull down on live servers.
- Accessibility compliance: high & soft colour contrast sheets & tagging for WCAG compliance.
- Support: very varied bug fixing, IE support, mini design projects and satisfying clients.

<u>UKRD:</u>
- Redesigned various websites and created site-wide templates to be used on multiple sites, such as shop product pages and news page templates (e.g. Spire News).
- Templating engines used with PHP to spit HTML onto pages (e.g. news story and product listings).
- Various other tasks such as bug fixing, app development, miscellaneous designs, etc.

<u>Technical Support Associates Limited:</u>
- FED: redeveloped main website www.tsaservices.co.uk in 2012 & again in 2019, improving SEO strength, exhibiting a professional feel and generating more leads and sales
- Redeveloped Online O&M Manual Site: recreated facilities management sites: pulse.tsaservices.co.uk (2015), pulsedemo.tsaservices.co.uk (2015) & www.pulseom.co.uk (2017). Also included back-end administration (e.g. creating password protected directories, creating authorised usernames and passwords, registering domains, emails, implementing SSL certificates, etc).

ABOUT ME

PERSONAL TRAITS:

Fast to learn, motivated to self-learn (by watching tutorials, reading books, undertaking courses & building projects) and am proactive.

HOBBIES & INTERESTS:

Big into running, hiking and squash. Also enjoy tennis, badminton, poker, football, rugby, trying new things (modern jive, salsa, bachata), paddleboarding, kayaking, reading and a beer at a nice pub.